

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data associated with a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising the steps of:

defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value for said multi-dimensional data structure;

creating a ~~combination~~ **plurality of combinations**, wherein ~~said~~ **each** combination defines a data item, [;]

~~mapping said multi-dimensional data structure to said data source;~~

~~determining a location of a gap; and~~

~~documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged~~

~~wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and each of the plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;~~

~~mapping data items in the first set of data items in said multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in each data source; and~~

~~determining a location of the gap, the gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and a second set of data items.~~

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, **further comprising bridging the gap wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.**

3. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.

4. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

5. **(original)** The method of claim 4, wherein each said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.

6. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said step of creating ~~a combination~~ combinations includes the step of linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.

7. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 6, wherein said step of mapping ~~said multi-dimensional data structure to said plurality of data sources~~ includes the step of mapping ~~said a~~ combination for a dimension value to a source structure.

8. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.

9. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

10. **(currently amended)** A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data associated with a plurality of charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of charts of accounts has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the steps of:

defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;

creating a ~~combination~~ plurality of combinations, wherein each ~~said~~ combination defines a data item{+},

~~mapping said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to said plurality of charts of accounts;~~

~~determining a location of a gap; and~~

~~documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged~~

and wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and each of said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in each chart of accounts; and

determining a location of a gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and a second set of data items.

11. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein ~~said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set and said second set of data items~~ the program storage device further executes the step of bridging the gap.

12. (currently amended) The program storage device of ~~claim 10 or~~ claim 11, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of charts of accounts.

13. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 10 ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

14. (original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.

15. (original) The program storage device of claim 14, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.

16. (original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.

17. **(currently amended)** The program storage device of claim 10 ~~any one of claims 10 to 16~~, wherein said step of creating combinations includes linking two or more dimensions for each said combination created.

18. **(currently amended)** The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said step of mapping ~~said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to a plurality of charts of accounts~~ includes ~~the step of~~ mapping said each combination for a dimension value to said plurality of charts of accounts.

19. **(currently amended)** The program storage device of claim 10 ~~any one of claims 10 to 18~~, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.

20. **(currently amended)** The program storage device of claim 10 ~~any one of claims 10 to 19~~, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

21. **(currently amended)** A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data from a plurality of data sources, ~~wherein~~ said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

a relational database;

a processor;

a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value;

a combination module for creating and retrieving a plurality of combinations, wherein a combination defines a data item and wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items;

a mapping module for mapping ~~a new data structure to said plurality of data structures; and~~

~~a gap detector and resolver for locating and documenting how gaps are bridged~~ data items in the first set of data items in the multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items in said plurality of data sources; and

a gap detector for detecting a gap comprising a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.

22. **(original)** The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.

23. **(currently amended)** The tool of claim 21 ~~or claim 22~~, wherein said gaps are bridged at said plurality of data sources.

24. **(currently amended)** The tool of claim 21 ~~any one of claims 21 to 23~~, wherein said combination module creates a combination by linking two or more dimensions.

25. **(currently amended)** The tool of claim 21 ~~any one of claims 21 to 24~~, further comprising a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data conversion.

26. **(currently amended)** The tool of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 21 to 25~~, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

27. **(new)** A method according to claim 2, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.

28. **(new)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

29. **(new)** A method according to claim 28, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

30. **(new)** A program storage device according to claim 11, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.

31. **(new)** A program storage device according to claim 11, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

32. **(new)** A program storage device according to claim 31, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

33. **(new)** A tool according to claim 21, wherein the gap detector further comprises a gap resolver for facilitating bridging of the gap.

34. **(new)** A tool according to claim 33, wherein the gap detector and resolver document how gaps are bridged.

35. **(new)** A tool according to claim 21, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

36. **(new)** A tool according to claim 35, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

37. **(new)** A method according to claim 2, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.

38. **(new)** A program storage device according to claim 11, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.

39. **(new)** A tool according to claim 21, wherein the gap is bridged by providing further data items from the plurality of data sources.